

Revival plan for ECL

331. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have emphasised the need to hasten the revival plan of Eastern Coalfields Limited in order to reduce losses and to make the company economically viable;
- (b) if so, the losses suffered by ECL during the last three years;
- (c) the factors responsible for such losses; and
- (d) whether the target fixed for coal production in the ECL could not be achieved during the last few years and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses incurred by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) during the last three financial years are given below year-wise:

Financial year	Loss (<i>Rs. in crores</i>)
1997-98	541.89
1998-99	472.47
1999-2000	589.65 (Provisional)

The annual accounts of ECL for the financial year 1999-2000 are yet to be audited.

- (c) The factors responsible for losses in ECL are:—
 - (i) Existence of large number of small underground (UG) mines, most of which were taken over at the time of nationalisation and are no longer amenable to significant increase in productivity.
 - (ii) Low productivity from UG mines as compared to the successive increases in wages and dearness allowance of the employees.
 - (iii) Surplus manpower.
 - (iv) Adverse geo-mining conditions and problems of land

acquisition and resettlement of land oustees affecting production from a few large coal mines.

(d) The targets of production and achievement levels in ECL during the last four years are given below:—

(In Million tonnes)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Target Production achieved	31.50 29.65	32.50 27.44	32.00 27.16	29.00 25.12 (Provisional)

The reasons for the production shortfall in ECL as compared to the targets are:—

- (i) Non-availability and delayed availability of land needed for coal mining operations.
- (ii) Unforeseen geological problems encountered in a number of UG mines.
- (iii) Low offtake of coal from Rajmahal Opencast mines necessitating lowering of production.

Implementation of special package for North-East

*332. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government stands committed to implement the special packages of programmes for speedy economic development of the North-Eastern States as announced by the two former Prime Ministers;
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken for their early implementation; and
- (c) the progress of work in various development programmes under those packages?